MONDAY ▪ NOVEMBER 1 ▪ 2010 ▪ RAIPUR ▪ The Hitavada

Dance, ghazal, comedy mark 4th day

■ Staff Reporter
RAIPUR, Oct 31

THE small stage of the Rajyotsav festival continued to entertain the spectators on Sunday, the penultimate day of the festival, with folk artists from Chhattisgarh and other parts of the country adding flavour with their performances.

Amongst an array of art forms, the Nimora and Kalbeliya dance by Kamala and group presented the culture of Rajasthan. Meanwhile, a medium for the proposal of love, 'Bihu' dance was presented by a troupe from Nagpur. The sophisticated moves of 'Kathak' performed by Nupur Dubey garnered massive applause.

The bouquet of local culture was assorted in the form of 'Panthi,' presented by R S Barle and group. Keeping up with the pace, Raut Nacha also persisted the energy level. The story of Mahabharata recited in folklore 'Pandwani' performed by Vishnu Prasad Sahu and troupe.

Besides, a young girls group from Durg propagated the message of environment conservation through 'Utsav Dhara,' under guidance of Neerja Bodhan. 'Sohar' or Badhai Geet, which is usually sung on a child birth in a Chhattisgarhi family, was voiced by Rekha Dewar. Also, 'Suwa' dance, expressing the heart of young Chhattisgarhi girl, was presented by Kavita Vasnik.

The event commenced with an evocative Ghazal programme by renowned singer Ashwini Verma, who captivated the audience with his nostalgic songs. In all, the singer sang six songs, which included 'Yeh Barkat ki Rut,' 'Jis Ghadi,' 'Achcha Insaan To,' 'Na Kyun Yaad Aaye,' 'Manzilon ki Dhun,' and 'Dono ke Darmiyan.'

Ashwini Verma was accompanied by a brilliant ensemble of musicians, which included Pt Shivlikar on Sitar, Ankur Verma on Santoor, Satish Mishra on Tabla and an upcoming talent, Jessica Graham on Guitar.

Ashwini Verma's act was followed by a beauteous Kathak Dance presentation by internationally-acclaimed dancer Vasanti Vaishnav (Bilaspur).

However, it was the rib-tickling 'Laughter Circus' show, presented by popular TV stand-up comedian stars Saloni and Rajeev Thakur, who were accompanied by Kuldeep Dubey and Ashok Mishra in their hilarious presentation, that won everyone's heart. The awesome foursome brought the house down with their uproarious comic acts one after the other, as the audience could not stop laughing till their stomachs began to hurt.

Famous Management Guru Arindam Chaudhary too enlightened the youngsters with his valuable tips on a career in management, among many other topics.

Ashwini Verma and group presenting their soulful 'Ghazal' programme.